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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 004435

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: TURKISH USG CONTRACTOR WITHDRAWING EMPLOYEES FROM IRAQ

REF: ANKARA 4340

Classified By: CDA Robert S. Deutsch for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) In an Aug. 5 meeting on another topic (septel), MFA Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Affairs Alev Kilic handed the Charge a list of 31 Turkish employees of Tepe Construction Company and its subsidiary, Bilintur, who are working under contract at a U.S. Marine base near Fallujah. Kilic said that the company had requested the Marines to assist in the withdrawal of these employees from Iraq to Turkey. (Note: Bilintur was the employer of Murat Yuce, who was murdered by terrorists in Iraq on Aug. 2. His murder was shown on the Internet, and, along with the recent murder and kidnapping of Turkish truckers in Iraq, prompted Turkey's largest trucking company association, the International Transporters Association, to call for a ban on Turkish trucking to Iraq in support of the coalition (reftel).)

2. (C) We followed up Aug. 6 with MFA Iraq Department Chief Mehmet Kemal Bozay. Bozay reported that the company has directly discussed the withdrawal with the U.S. Marines at Fallujah and requested assistance. He believes the process is in train, and maintained that the company and the GOT wanted it to be "low-key and discrete." Bozay noted that the company had requested that the "proper U.S. authorities" be informed.

3. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

DEUTSCH